

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00268 201315Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-05

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 AGR-10 PRS-01 PA-02

USIA-15 ARAE-00 /116 W

----- 112007

P R 191858Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8447

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0268

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN EFIN BB AC

SUBJ: VENEZUELAN OIL SCHEME

REF: (A) STATE 035499;)B) BRIDGETOWN 0082

1. BARBADOS' PM BARROW APPARENTLY DID HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ EARLY IN YEAR RE OIL REBATE ARRANGEMENTS (REFTEL B) BUT SUCH SCHEME HAS APPARENTLY NOT YET BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT HERE. GOB FINANCE MINISTRY AND CENTRAL BANK AUTHORITIES, WHO WOULD HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATION OF SCHEME, TELL US THAT THEY ARE AWARE ONLY OF GENERAL ARRANGEMENT BUT THAT PM HAS NOT YET MOVED TO PROVIDE THEM WITH DETAILS NECESSARY FOR PUTTING SCHEME INTO OPERATION.

2. ANTIGUA, EASTERN CARIBBEAN'S ONLY OTHER IMPORTER OF VENEZUELAN CRUDE, IS APPARENTLY NOT PARTICIPATING IN SCHEME EITHER. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER GOV HAS EXTENDED ANY OFFERS TO PARTICIPATE TO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRIDGE 00268 201315Z

ANTIGUA BUT ARE MAKING INQUIRIES TO FIND OUT. SINCE ANTIGUA IS

NOT YET INDEPENDENT, HAS NO CENTRAL BANK, AND HAS SERIOUS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, IMPLEMENTATION OF REBATE SCHEME MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT.

3. OBVIOUSLY REBATE SCHEME, IF IMPLEMENTED, WOULD OFFER CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGES TO BOTH ISLANDS. PM BARROW ESTIMATED THAT OIL SCHEME COUPLED WITH FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN SUGAR AND TOURISM SECTORS COULD BRING BOP SURPLUS OF US DOLS 35 MILLION, A SITUATION NOT SEEN IN BARBADOS FOR DECADES. AT VERY LEAST SCHEME COULD REDUCE GOB FOREIGN EXCHANGE EXPENDITURES ON CRUDE OIL (NOW ABOUT US DOLS 32 MILLION) BY ALMOST 50 PERCENT.

4. STATISTICS FROM ANTIGUA ARE NOT AVAILABLE; HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT REBATE SCHEME WOULD HAVE DEFINITE, POSITIVE EFFECT ON BOP OF THAT HARD-PRESSED ISLAND.
BRITTON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TAX RELIEF
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRIDGE00268
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750060-0973
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750233/aaaabdhf.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 035499, 75)BRIDGETOWN 0082
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VENEZUELAN OIL SCHEME
TAGS: EGEN, EFIN, ENRG, BB, AC, (BARROW, ERROL W), (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006